Briefing Packet

Citizenship Washington Focus

Summer 1991

Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior

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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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Summer 1991

Dear 4-H Citizenship-Washington Focus Participants:

It is a privilege for me to welcome you to our Nation's capital and the Department of the Interior. I am certain you will discover the Citizenship-Washington Week to be highly rewarding to you now and in the future, as you pursue your work in the 4-H program.

Like you, I spent many hours outdoors as a young boy. Throughout my lifetime, I grew to love the land and to fully appreciate our vast natural resources and scenic wonders. When President Bush chose me to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), I was deeply honored.

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan, Jr., has developed a plan which outlines our stewardship commitment. The plan is included in your packet of informational materials. Our stewardship mission is to ensure the protection and wise use of our natural resources. Only in this way can we preserve our natural bounty in trust for you and future generations.

As you partake in this week's activities here in Washington, keep in mind this basic thought: You are America's future. We need your help in protecting our Nation's heritage. Accordingly, I ask you to volunteer your time and talents to assist us in carrying out our stewardship mission. When you go back home, visit a BLM Office and ask if you can donate your time and skills on a natural resource project. I think you will find it to be a personally rewarding experience.

Sincerely,

C. J. Jamison

Director

BLM Facts

Mission

The Bureau of Land Management, an agency within the Department of the Interior, is responsible for managing the nation's public lands and resources in a combination of ways that best serves the needs of the American people. Management is based on the principles of multiple use and sustained yield — a combination of uses that balances the needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources. These resources include recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness, and natural scenic, scientific and cultural values.

Founded

In 1812, Congress established the General Land Office to administer the public domain. The passage of the Taylor Grazing Act in 1934 established the U.S. Grazing Service to provide active range management on public domain lands. In 1946, the Presidential Reorganization Plan No. 2 merged the Grazing Service with the General Land Office to create the Bureau of Land Management within the Department of the Interior.

Acreage

The Bureau of Land Management today administers what remains of the nation's once vast land holdings — the public domain. The public domain once stretched from the Appalachian Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. Of the 1.8 billion acres of public land originally acquired by the United States, two-thirds went to individuals, industries, and the states. Of that remaining, much was set aside for National Forests, wildlife refuges, National Parks and monuments, and other public purposes, leaving BLM to manage about 272 million acres — about one-eighth of the nation. The BLM also manages the mineral estate underlying 572 million acres, 300 million acres of which are administered or owned by other agencies or private interests. Most of the lands managed by BLM are located in 11 Western states, including Alaska, although small parcels are scattered across the eastern United States.

Organization

The BLM's national office is in Washington, D.C. In addition, there are 12 state offices, 58 district offices, and 140 resource area offices. The BLM has about 9,650 employees, most of whom work in field offices in the West. Multiple-use management requires many skills and talents. Foresters, range conservationists, wildlife biologists, archaeologists, surveyors, engineers, recreation specialists, and many other disciplines are needed to care for and manage the public lands.

Responsibilities

With BLM's unique mandate of multiple-use management, its responsibilities are varied and complex. Some of BLM's major responsibilities include:

Minerals

• Managing onshore oil and gas and coal resources. The BLM conducts sales, issues leases, and administers operations on about 89,000 onshore oil and gas leases on 72 million acres and about 550 coal leases on 800,000 acres, which provide nearly 20 percent of the Nation's coal production.

• Administering nonenergy mineral leasing and sales. About 50 percent of the nation's potash and 70 percent of its lead is produced from public lands. In addition, for many communities in the West, public lands continue to be the only source for sand, gravel and other common stone, which are sold by BLM for such uses as construction of transportation systems and expansion of communities.

• Administering about 1.2 million mining claims. Public lands in the West, particularly Nevada, are supporting a major new gold rush. Fourteen of the top 25 U.S. gold mines are on public lands.

Lands and Renewable Resources

• Issuing leases, rights-of-way, and use permits for a wide variety of uses of public land including parks; power transmission and distribution lines; petroleum products collection and transmission systems; advertising and motion picture filming; and recreational events.

• Managing a full range of recreation activities, accommodating about 58 million recreation visits to public lands each year. This includes National Conservation Areas, a National Recreation Area, about 2,000 miles of the Wild and Scenic River System, and about 1,700 miles of National Trails. In addition, BLM manages 85,000 miles of streams containing trout, salmon, and other sport fish, enough to circle the Earth three and one-half times; more than 4 million acres of lakes and reservoirs; more than 470 developed recreation sites; and thousands of areas open to a wide variety of recreational uses.

• Evaluating and protecting the government's largest, most varied body of cultural resources. Of the 150,000 cultural properties identified, 350 archaeological and historic properties are entered in the National Register of Historic Places, and an additional 1,200 are considered to have nationally significant values. These range from campsites of the hemisphere's earliest human inhabitants to physical reminders of the historic setting of the West.

• Managing 25 wilderness areas in eight states, covering more than 450,000 acres. In addition, there are currently 855 wilderness study areas covering 25 million acres.

Major BLM Offices

Alaska State Office
222 W. 7th Avenue #13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599
(907) 271-5555

Arizona State Office
3707 N. 7th Street
P.O. Box 16563
Phoenix, AZ 85011
(602) 241-5504

Boise Interagency Fire Center
3905 Vista Avenue
Boise, ID 83705
(208) 389-2457

California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, E-2841
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 978-4746

Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, CO 80215
(303) 236-1700

Eastern States Office
350 S. Pickett Street
Alexandria, VA 22304
(703) 461-1369

Idaho State Office
3380 Americana Terrace
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 334-1771

Montana State Office
222 N. 32nd Street
P.O. Box 36800
Billings, MT 59107
(406) 255-2913

Nevada State Office
850 Harvard Way
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520
(702) 328-6386

New Mexico State Office
South Federal Place
P.O. Box 1449
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1449
(505) 988-6316

Oregon State Office
825 NE Multnomah Street
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208
(503) 231-6274

Phoenix Training Center
5050 N. 19th Avenue, Suite 300
Phoenix, AZ 85015
(602) 241-2651

Utah State Office
324 South State Street
CFS Financial Center Bldg., Suite 301
Salt Lake City, UT 84111-2303
(801) 539-4021

Wyoming State Office
2515 Warren Avenue
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, WY 82003
(307) 772-2111

Headquarters Office
18th & C Streets, NW, MIB 5600
Washington, D.C. 20240
(202) 343-5717

- Administering 90 million acres of forested lands. Most of these lands are in Alaska; however, some 26 million acres lie within the lower 48 States, including 21 million acres of woodlands and 5 million acres of commercial forest lands.

- Managing livestock grazing on 170 million acres of public lands. About 18,800 ranchers and farmers graze livestock on BLM adminstered lands. About 90 percent of these permittees have small (less than 100 head) or medium (100 to 500 head) livestock operations.

- Managing wildlife habitat for more than 3,000 species, including 140 threatened or endangered plant and animal species, and managing and protecting key riparian areas along 85,000 miles of streams. BLM manages habitat for one out of every five big game animals in the United States, including caribou, brown and grizzly bears, desert bighorn sheep, moose, mule deer, and antelope.

- Managing more than 43,000 wild horses and burros on public lands.

Support Services

- Enforcing public land laws through the use of special agents and rangers.

- Identifying and arranging cleanup of hazardous materials sites on public lands.

- Federal surveying and maintenance of all official Public Land Survey System records covering 30 states.

- Managing prescribed fires and aggressively suppressing fire on an average year's 2,350 wildfires.

Management Services

- Collecting and disbursing revenues and receipts. BLM is a primary generator of revenues for the federal government. The development and use of BLM lands and resources generate more than $800 million annually from a variety of sources, including timber sales, sale of public lands, grazing, right-of-way leases, permits, and mineral receipts. In the last 10 years, state and local governments received nearly $4 billion as their share of revenues collected from the lease or sale of public land resources and as payments for federal tax-exempt lands.

For more information, contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management office nearest you.

FEDERAL LAND PLANNING - THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT*

Federal land is a legacy unique to the United States. In the 11 western States, almost 48 percent of the total land acreage is managed for the public good by one of several Federal agencies. In Nevada, Idaho, Utah, and Oregon over 50 percent of the land is federally managed. Federal and is part of the estate of each American, and current legislation from Congress has made it clear that each citizen can have a voice in how certain types of Federal lands are to be managed.

The Bureau of Land Management has jurisdiction over the largest acreage of Federal land, managing over 174 million acres almost exclusively in the West. The BLM, as it is commonly called, is a relatively new agency. It was created in 1946 by combining the General Land Office and the Grazing Service. However, it wasn't until 1976 and the passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, (FLPMA), that the Bureau was clearly given charge of managing the lands under its jurisdiction for the common good in perpetuity. FLPMA also reaffirmed that these BLM managed lands should be managed to achieve multiple use objectives. This was in contrast to the historical role of the Bureau which, until the Multiple Use Reclassification Act of 1964, was oriented towards management for livestock grazing.

Now the BLM must manage its lands so that "...they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people...without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and quality of the environment...". In order to comply with FLPMA, the BLM released new planning regulations on August 7, 1979. These new regulations cover a planning system that requires a considerable amount of public involvement.

Public involvement (also called Citizen Involvement, Citizen Participation, Public Participation, etc.) refers to the process by which the BLM and other Federal agencies attempt to incorporate public input into its land use planning system. Public involvement is becoming a major program within the Bureau and many offices have a public affairs officer who should be able to help citizens become involved. Learning about and understanding how the planning system works facilitates effective involvement. The basic BLM planning process is described here.

To become involved a citizen should contact the local BLM office, meet the people who work there, try to understand what they do and ask questions. If your district office cannot give a satisfactory answer to a question, ask them to inquire at the State Office or the citizen can do this. Remember that the BLM is a large, slow-moving bureaucracy and sometimes is incapable of immediate responses. The BLM is very conscious of its responsibility to keep the public informed and the employees should be willing to help the public.

One more word of caution. BLM employees tend to talk in abbreviations. This is so ingrained that they may not even realize that they are talking to you almost in a foreign language. If you don't understand what they are talking aobut, ask him or her to not use acronyms. In this circular both the full name and acronym will be used to help the public become more familiar with the Bureau jargon.

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*Prepared by Lucia Malin, Extension Assistant, Rangeland Resources, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregion

Understand the Structure of the Bureau of Land Management

The primary operational unit in the Bureau of Land Management's organizational system is the Resource Area. Usually from two to six resource areas comprise a District. The District Manager is responsible for the total resource management in each district. The Area Manager works under the direction of the District Manager, who coordinates the activities of the various resource areas in his district. There are currently 178 Resource Areas in the western States, excluding Alaska, averaging 950,000 Federal surface acres each. There are 54 Districts exclusive of Alaska. Due to specific legislative mandates, there are several areas that follow the general planning program, but with some additional provisions. These include Alaska, the southern California Desert, the active coal mining areas, and the O&C lands (Oregon and California Revested Railroad Lands) in Oregon.

Who Do You Want to Influence?

In influencing policy it is important to remember that although developing a friendly rapport with the specialist with whom you most closely work is useful, it is the District Manager who makes most of the decisions concerning his or her local district. The district manager is the "responsible line official" who signs off on (or accepts responsibility for) the major planning documents.

BLM Structure

While the present structure of the BLM is not complicated, there is pressure on the Bureau to become more decentralized and to allow more major decisions to be made at the local level.

BLM Structure	Location
Director	Washington, D.C.
National Staff	Washington, D.C.
State Director	Various States
State Staff	Various States
District Manager	Various Districts
District Staff	Various Districts
Area Manager	Various Areas
Area Staff	Various Areas

NEPA

In 1969 Congress passed the National Environmental Policy Act. This Act has had far reaching effects on the activities of Federal agencies because it requires that the environmental consequences of any proposed Federal action be considered before a decision to proceed is made. Several alternative actions are described and their effects are analysed along with the proposed action. This analysis includes a discussion of how each alternative grazing or timber management plan will affect the local area in terms of environmental, social and economic impacts. This document is called an Environmental Impact Statement or EIS. The EIS is a tool that gives the decision maker the available information about the range and intensity of impacts that will result if a certain decision is made. The EIS is not a decision document in itself. The public's role in EIs review is to comment on the draft and final versions. There is a 90-day review period following the release of Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and a 30-day review following the publication of a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

BLM Planning System: Overview

Resource management is defined broadly as including all public land values, renewable and nonrenewable resources of all types, and supporting services.

The Resource Management Plan (RMP), to the degree possible, considers the environmental impacts of all significant actions so that a separate environmental assessment will not be needed for each action. The RMP considers these types of activities:

1. land use allocation decisions;
2. Allowable uses and related levels of production;
3. Resource condition goals and objectives;
4. Program constraints and general management practices needed to achieve above;
5. Need for and areas to be covered by more specific plans;
6. Support action needed to acheive the above;
7. General implementation sequences;
8. Intervals and standards for monitoring and evaluating plans.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Policy

Under the old planning system, the Management Framework Plan (MFP), two separate documents were written--the Environmental Impact Statement was written on the projected effects of only the proposed grazing (or timber) management plan as identified through the MFP process. The new regulations state that:

> Approval of a resource management plan is considered a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The environmental analysis of alternatives and the porposed plan shall be accomplished as part of the resource management planning process. The proposed plan and related EIS shall be published as a single document.

This should prove to be more efficient than the current process of preparing management framework plans without environmental impact statements, followed by preparation and filing of environmental impact statements as necessary, for individual actions or programs based on the Management Framework Plan. This should eliminate overlap and duplication.

Public Participation

Public participation is to be sought and used throughout the planning process. A public participation plan is to be prepared very early in the process. Under the new regulations, it is important for citizens to become involved early in the planning process. Citizens should make written comments to the District Manager, and to follow the planning process through to completion. The reason this is critical is that only citizens who have commented during the planning process can protest the final decision. Therefore, if there is a possibility that the decision will not acceptable, it is imperative to given written input to the District Manager.

The Resource Management Plan or RMP Process

The RMP (Resource Managment Plan) is the basic planning document to be used by the BLM in the future. A RMP is exactly what it states--a plan that lays out a course of management for wise use or protection of the resources. There are nine basic steps that are involved in developing a RMP:

Identification of Issues
Development of Planning Criteria
Inventory Data and Information Collection
Analysis of the Management Situation
Formulation of Alternatives
Estimation of Effects of Alternatives
Selection of Preferred Alternatives
Selection of Resource Management Plan
Monitoring and Evaluation

The Plan will be developed by an interdisciplinary team composed of people who have the skills necessary to address the issues identified during the first stage of the planning process. The District Manager selects the number of these teams. Many of these planning steps will occur at the same time.

1. Identification of Issues. Each BLM resource area has different problems and management opportunities. The planning team must identify the important issues, concerns, and opportunities. These issues become the center of the planning effort and should be reflected in each step of the planning process. The public is to be included in this initial step, and the BLM must provide an opportunity for citizens to express concerns on how resources should be developed or protected. Respondents to BLM's requests for public input should make sure that they are on the right mailing lists so that they receive notice of all public meetings.

   Bringing issues and/or potential conflicts to the attention of the BLM planning team is important. Citizen input is valuable. It helps planners determine which issues are of greatest concern to the public, and why they are important.

2. Development of Planning Criteria. Because the issues identified determine the direction of the planning process, it is necessary to decide what criteria will be used to detemrine when sufficient information has been gathered. These criteria are also used to evaluate alternatives and to select one alternative as the proposed resource management plan. The criteria are published for public comment before they are approved by the District Manager. Thus, it is important that citizens find out when they are available, request a copy to review, and comment on the criteria. When the District Manageer selects a resource management plan, these criteria from the basis for judging if all planning objectives have beeen accomplished. It is important for citizens to make sure these criteria cover all the issues addressed in the plan.

3. Inventory Data and Information Collection. Before the planning team can develop any management alternatives, they need to know the present condition of the resources, the past levels of production, and the social and economic interrelationships in the area. The District Manager is responsible for the collection of this type of information. Citizen input at this step can be valuable if they know something about the use or condition of an area that the BLM may not know. Their contributions will be appreciated.

4. Analysis of the Management Situation. The analysis of the management situation is a critical step. The District Manager determines the capability of the land resource to respond to the needs and concerns identified through public participation, the issues identified earlier in the planning process, and BLM policy. This is a highly technical phase of the planning process. The purpose is to describe the ability of public domain and O&C lands to produce sustained levels of various goods and services. District management opportunities are also identified. This analysis considers

all the factual infomraiton gathered about resource condition and ability to produce, supply and demand forecases, degree of local dependency on public lands, and possibilities for resolving public conflicts that may arise. There is no direct public involvement at this stage; it is important that participation has occurred and has been submitted for the record, in writing, to the District Manager.

5. Formulation of Alternatives. Resource management alternatives are combinations of management activities that are intended to meet plannign objectives and to address public issues, concerns and management opportunities. The regulations require preparation of several reasonable alternatives. One must be for no action, i.e., the continuation of present management levels. The other alternatives can range from those favoring resource protection to those favoring resource production. The alternatives are to reflect the variety of opinion about a resource area.

6. Estimation of the Effects of the Alternatives. The district staff estimates and displays the physical, biological, and social effects of what would happen if each alternative were implemented. This is a technical step of the planning process and again involves no direct public participation. This estimation must discuss the environmental effects of the alternatives as required by NEPA. Included are any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided if the alternative is implemented, the relationship between short term uses of man's environment and the long term productivity, and any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources that would be involved if the alternative is implemented. The analysis includes descriptions of the direct and indirect effects of the alternatives and their significances; possible conflicts between each alternative and the objectives of Federal, regional, State, and local land use plans, energy requirements, and conservation potential of various alternatives the natural or depletable resource requirements; and means to mitigate adverse environmental impacts. During this step the Environmental Impact Statement is developed by the interdisciplinary team.

7. Selection of Preferred Alternatives. The District Manager selects a preferred alternative. This alternative is incorporated into the draft plan and draft environmental impact statement. The resulting document is submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency and published as a draft Environmental Impact Statement. At this time the public has a critically important opportunity to participate--a 90 day public review period. Participate in this review. The final resource management plan will not be selected until after all comments from the public and other government agencies has been received and evaluated. If citizen suggestions are not incorporated into the plan, you should be told why. Citizens should thoroughly review the draft document. It is a good idea to get together with friends or colleagues and review the draft as a group. The resulting discussion can bring new ideas up for consideraiton and makes the process of reviewing a draft statement a little easier. Since emotional responses are difficult to analyze, it is best to incorporate as much factual information as possible into your comments.

8. Selection of Resource Management Plan. The District Manager considers all the factual information developed along with the public comments received and selects a proposed resource management plan and final environmental impact statement using the planning criteria selected earlier. If the proposed RMP is not within the range of alternatives in the draft plan and draft environmental impact statement is significantly different, a new draft plan must be written.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation. The adopted plan is to be evaluated at least every 5 years. Standards and intervals for evaluation are to be based on the sensitivity of the resources involved. The evaluation standards help determine:

   1) Whether mitigation measures are satisfactory;
   2) whether any established threshholds have been met or exceeded;
   3) whether there has been signficant change in the plans of other Federal, State, or local governments; or
   4) whether significant new data has been discovered.

Protest Procedures

Citizens do have protest rights and these are spelled out clearly in the regulations. It is much more important, however, to participate throughout the planning process. This ensures that your concerns are being addressed and lessens the likelihood of a plan being developed that does not meet the needs of the entire community. Another important reason for participating is that citizens must be involved at some time in the planning process in order to protest the final decision. A protest may raise only those issues which were submitted for the record to the District Manager during the planning process.

The protest must be in writing, and must be sent to the State Director within 30 days after the Final Environmental Impact Statement is filed with the Environmental Protection Agency.

If you feel you have grounds to protest a BLM decision, check the wording in the regulations to make sure the proper procedure is followed. But in general, what is needed in a protest statement is:

1. Citizens name, mailing address, and interest, e.g., rancher, local business person, environmentalist, etc.;
2. A statement of the issue or issues protested;
3. A statement of the part or parts of the plan protested;
4. A copy of all the documents submitted to the District Manager for the record during the planning process that addresses the issue; and,
5. A short, concise statement explaining why you think the District Manager's decision is wrong.

The State Director should promptly render a decision on the protest and return a copy by certified mail.

Disagremeent with the State Director can be appealed by the same process to the Director of the BLM in Washington, D.C. His decision is final.

Some Tips on Getting Involved

The Bureau of Land Management is required to utilize public input throughout their planning process. Your local District Office will publish announcements in the newspaper when they start any major planning program. Citizens should pay attention to these notices and make sure they understand what the Bureau is doing.

It is very helpful for citizens to develop a friendly rapport with the people in the BLM office. If the Range Conservationist, for example, knows you are interested, he/she will be likely to make certain you are notified about upcoming events.

Being on the right mailing lists is essential. Send a letter, call, or stop in at the District Office to let them know what your interests are. The State Office also maintains mailing lists for various programs that citizens can find at the District Office. The State Office also publishes a monthly newsletter that can be requested.

CITIZENS' GUIDE TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

Roughly one-third of America's land base is in public ownership, much of it under the jurisdiction of the federal Bureau of Land Management and the U. S. Forest Service. Planning for the management and use of these federally owned lands is a complex task, and the management decisions made can significantly affect public resources and the people who use them.

Specialists in resource management play an important role in decision making. They are adept at identifying various ways the land can be used, as well as the potential consequences of management alternatives. But deciding how public lands should be used involves personal value judgements regarding the trade-offs usually encountered in land management decisions. The "experts" are certainly no more qualified to make these judgements than "average citizens" who will be affected by the decisions made.

To ensure that the public is involved in major decisions made by the BLM and U.S. Forest Service, Congress has enacted a number of important legislative measures. Among them: the National Environmental Policy Act, 1970 (NEPA); the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act, 1974 (RPA); the National Forest Management Act, 1976 (NFMA - amends RPA); and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 1976 (FLPMA). These latter three Acts (RPA, NFMA, FLPMA) establish the overall operational framework for the Forest Service and BLM. As a consequence of these Acts, both agencies published regulations which guide their land-use planning efforts. These regulations also reflect the intent and procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The purpose of this paper is to describe the NEPA process and the formulation of environmental impact statements (EIS's) within the context of BLM and U. S. Forest Service land-use decision making. The emphasis here will be on how the NEPA process works and your opportunities to participate in the development of an EIS.

NEPA:

Before 1970, the Federal Government provided little support to citizens concerned about the potential environmental impacts of BLM and Forest Service land-use decisions. Except in isolated cases, it did not require an

evaluation of the environmental effects of proposed agency decisions. Nor were the agencies required to make information available to the public, or solicit their views. During the late 1960's, public concern over environmental issues resulted in the formulation of the National Environmental Policy Act. Signed into law on January 1, 1970, this act has had far ranging consequences for federal land management agencies. The purpose of the Act as stated in Section 2 is:

> To declare a national policy which will encourage production and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts which will prevent or limit damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; to enrich the understanding of ecological systems and natural resources important to the nation....

NEPA has three major provisions:

1. It states that each person has a right to a healthful environment, and that it is in part the responsibility of the Federal Government to ensure that the environment is protected.

2. It set up the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), a small agency in the Executive Office of the President. The head of CEQ acts as the President's advisor on environmental matters. For more detail on the responsibilities and duties of CEQ, see Appendix 1.

3. It established the environmental impact statement process.

The EIS Process:

Simply stated, an environmental impact statement is a document which analyzes and predicts the likely environmental consequences of a proposed action. It also includes a discussion of "unavoidable adverse effects" which would result if the proposed action were taken, possible alternatives, and the short-term versus long-term advantages of the proposal.

It is important to note that an EIS is not a decision. Rather, it is used by agency decision makers as a "tool" to alert them and the public to environmental risks and/or benefits of a proposed decision. The underlying philosophy of NEPA and the EIS process is that the Federal Government should weigh the potential environmental consequences of a major decision before it is made. Now, while that sounds straight forward, the process involved in preparing, reviewing and acting on an EIS can become quite complex and tedious.

The EIS process involves four major steps:

1. First, the agency must decide whether an EIS is required. For the BLM and U. S. Forest Service, all major new planning efforts, revisions of existing plans, and "significant" amendments must be accompanied by an EIS. Contact the Forest Supervisor or BLM District Manager for more information on this first step in the EIS process.

2. If an EIS is needed, stage two of the process involves the preparation of a draft statement (DEIS). This is a preliminary report on the potential environmental effects of a proposed decision. The DEIS is developed (under CEQ regulations--see Appendix 1) in conjunction with the agency's regular land use planning process. Much of the information upon which the DEIS is based is obtained during planning. This is especially true regarding public perceptions of important land management issues, conflicts and concerns, so....if you want to participate in the development of the DEIS, participate in the agency's planning process.

3. When the DEIS is complete, it is sent for review to all groups and individuals interested in the proposed action: other federal agencies (including the CEQ); state and local governments; industry and citizen action groups; and concerned citizens. Ninety calendar days are allowed for the review of a DEIS. Review comments must be in written form to be formally considered, but just about any written form is acceptable (hand-written, typed, business letterhead, telegrams, petitions, etc.).

The agency then prepares a final statement (FEIS) by revising the DEIS to incorporate the agency's response to the review comments received. Note that the agency is not obliged to incorporate your comments directly, but rather must incorporate their response to your comments. Often, the comments are themselves included in the FEIS.

4. The last step in the process occurs when the agency makes a decision. This decision is based on the information in the FEIS and on non-environmental factors.

Content of an EIS:

Due to inadequacies in early EIS's, in 1977 President Carter directed the CEQ to develop new binding regulations which would guide all federal agencies in preparing impact statements. Each statement must now begin with an executive summary of no more than 15 pages, a brief statement of the purpose and need for the statement, and a list of preparers (the interdisciplinary team) including their professional disciplines and qualifications.

Environmental impact statements must contain the following information:

1. A detailed description of the proposed action, including information and technical data adequate to permit a careful assessment of environmental impact.

2. Discussion of the probable impact on the environment, including any impact on ecological systems and any direct or indirect consequences that may result from the action.

3. Any adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided.

4. Alternatives to the proposed action that might avoid some or all of the adverse environmental effects, including analysis of costs and environmental impacts of these alternatives.

5. An assessment of the cumulative, long-term effects of the proposed action including its relationship to short-term use of the environment versus the environment's long-term productivity.

6. Any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources that might result from the action or which would curtail beneficial use of the environment.

A final impact statement must also include a discussion of problems and objections raised by other Federal, State and local agencies, private organizations and individuals during the draft statement's review process.

Scoping:

The CEQ regulations require that early in the preparation of an EIS, the agency must perform a "scoping function". This is a bureaucrat's term for finding out about the major issues and concerns associated with a proposed decision. These identified issues and concerns "drive" the BLM and Forest Service planning process, and they are addressed in the EIS. By focusing on the issues early and obtaining public input, delays due to "surprise" issues will be minimized.

The Role of The Citizen (what you can do):

NEPA encourages public involvement throughout the EIS process. Since the Forest Service and BLM regulations call for the preparation as plans are made, public participation in agency land-use planning and EIS preparation are nearly one-in-the-same thing.

Scoping: The BLM and U.S.F.S. both begin their planning efforts with an identification of management issues and concerns. This fulfills the "scoping" requirement of the CEQ regulations. Formal public involvement activities are called for in this planning stage, and interested citizens should take care to participate in this step.

Other Planning Activities: Both the BLM and USFS go through several major planning steps before a DEIS is prepared. These are opportunities for citizen involvement in these planning activities, and interested citizens should exploit those opportunities. By doing so, they will have input into the preparation of the DEIS.

Reviewing the DEIS: Ninety calendar days are allowed for the review of a DEIS. Copies of the DEIS should be sent out upon request. Remember that only written comments can be formally incorporated in the FEIS.

When reviewing a DEIS, concern yourself with factual information. Federal agencies cannot effectively deal with emotional responses, so it is best to stick to the facts. Whenever you come across something in the statement with which you disagree, write down the page number, the sentence you disagree with, and why. If you have conflicting information or data, write that down too. If you feel the agency does not have enough evidence to support a statement it makes, state your reasoning. Once you have all your comments on paper, it is best to review them and submit only those you feel to be most important. You will find it very helpful to do this review with a group of people who share your concern about the proposed decision.

Reviewing the FEIS: When the FEIS is released, the agency must allow thirty calendar days for review before implementing the proposed decision. During that 30 days, you should examine the FEIS to see if and how it was modified from the draft statement. The FEIS will usually contain all the comments received on the draft, along with the agencies' responses to these comments. If your recommendations were not followed, you have a right to know why. If this is not stated in the FEIS, you should contact the agency for an explanation. Keep in mind that the agency is not required to select the management alternative that is environmentally "most acceptable". However, the agency must formally justify the decision it did make, and it must document how the EIS was used in reaching its decision. This is done in the record of decision, a formal documentation of decision making that is open to public inspection.

The record of decision must describe the decision and identify all alternatives considered by the agency in reaching that decision. The agency must specify which alternatives are environmentally preferable, and identify all national policy factors that were considered. The record of decision must also discuss whether all practical actions that could mitigate environmental harm have been adopted and if not, why. It is this record of decision that assures the use of the FEIS in decision making.

Some Tips on Participation:

The EIS process can be very complex. Many lawyers and consultants specialize in environmental issues and the requirements stemming from NEPA. From the point of view of "average citizens", participation in the EIS process can appear to be an overwhelming job. There are some simple suggestions which can ease the burden:

1) Join or Form a Group. If possible, a concerned citizen should join a group that is already interested in the proposed agency action. Established groups often have a variety of expertise to draw upon, and the tasks involved in reviewing an EIS can be shared with others. There is a psychological advantage as well, since the motivation and momentum of a group tends to outlast that of individual members. As a last resort, a new group could be formed. In some cases this is necessary, but is, in itself, a time consuming process.

2) Make Contacts. Get to know agency employees and other people in the area who can provide you with key information. If possible, establish and maintain a good relationship with agency employees. They can help you in understanding the process and are often a good source of technical expertise.

3) Learn About the Process. One important key to effective participation is knowing how the agency's land-use planning process works and how NEPA relates to that process. Only in this way can you pinpoint when, how, and to whom you should make your comments so as to maximize their value to the decision makers.

4) Be Aware of the Time Frame. Many agencies operate under fairly inflexible timelines. Know when the DEIS is due to be published and make sure you get a copy. You only have 90 days to comment on a DEIS and 30 days on an FEIS.

5) Get on the Right Mailing Lists. Make sure the agency knows you are interested in their planning effort and get your name on their mailing list. Doing so will result in all EIS information being sent to you in a timely fashion.

6. Attend Public Meetings. This is an important aspect of each agency's public involvement program. Public meetings give you the opportunity to interact with agency personnel and raise your concerns early and throughout the planning and EIS process. The proceedings of public meetings held by the BLM and USFS become part of the public record, and the concerns you voice at those meetings are therefore documented. This is important, because land-use plans can only be appealed on the basis of concerns raised by the appellant earlier in the formal planning process.

Your participation in federal land-use planning and the preparation and subsequent review of environmental impact statements is critical to the management of public lands. Citizens are, after all, the only "experts" capable of making the basic value choices underlying federal land use decision making. It is one thing to identify the potential consequences of alternative uses, but quite another to decide which of those consequences are acceptable.

APPENDIX 1

CEQ REGULATIONS

In 1977, President Carter directed the Council on Environmental Quality to develop binding regulations that require federal agencies to "reduce paperwork and the accumulation of extraneous background data, in order to emphasize the need to focus on real environmental issues and alternatives."

For a year and a half after the President's Executive Order to reform the EIS process, the Council held public hearings, met with numerous concerned interest groups including business and labor and environmentalists, distributed questionnaires to elicit ideas for the regulations, and then published the regulations in draft form in June 1978 for public comment. Following the public comment period, CEQ issued its new regulations on November 29, 1978. According to CEQ Chairman Charles Warren, the regulations are designed "to reduce paperwork, to reduce delays, and at the same time to produce better decisions which further the national policy to protect and enhance the quality of the human environment."

Among the provisions written into the proposed regulations to improve the federal decision-making process are:

* EIS's should not "normally" exceed 150 pages, and those for projects of "unusual scope or complexity" should not run beyond 300 pages;

* The statements should be clear, to the point, and written in "plain language";

* They should be accompanied by a summary of "less than 15 pages" that stresses major conclusions, areas of controversy, and issues to be resolved;

* The new rules create a process known as "scoping" by which all affected government agencies, as well as opponents and advocates of the action, will try to identify beforehand what should be included in an EIS. Scoping is intended to focus the EIS on a relatively few major issues that require extensive consideration, while treating minor or peripheral issues briefly.

* They establish a framework for interagency cooperation in resolving disputes between the agencies;

* The federal agency preparing the EIS may set a time limit for environmental review of its proposed action and must do so when requested by somebody applying for project approval;

* Federal agencies must utilize all appropriate disciplines from the natural and social sciences and the environmental design arts in EIS preparation, identify individuals who helped prepare the document and their qualifications, and insure that those outside government who assisted in preparing EIS's have no conflict of interest which would compromise their objectivity;

* An agency must follow up on its statements and deal with the problems that its actions may create.

Eight months after they were issued, the new regulations went into full effect (July 30, 1979). All federal agencies changed their operating procedures where necessary to comply with the new CEQ regulations.

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUMMARIES OF MAJOR PUBLIC LAND LAWS

The public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and United States Forest Service are governed by numerous laws, some of which were passed while we were still fighting the American Revolution. The Public Land Law Review Commission, a 1964 report to Congress, lists 2669 laws that still affect the administration of the public lands. However of these many laws, a few stand out as being the major pieces of legislation that deal with public lands. This paper outlines the major pieces of legislation that affect the operations of two of the largest federal land managing agencies, the Bureau of Land Management, in the Department of Interior and the United States Forest Service, in the Department of Agriculture.

These laws range from all encompassing pieces of legislation that set policy and direction for the agencies, such as the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), to specific laws that require special programs affecting both agencies such as the Wilderness Act or the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Some laws, such as the Public Rangelands Improvement Act, authorizes Congress to appropriate monies for specific activities, however, it must be remembered that these are only authorizations and money must be budgeted annually by Congress. While a bill may sound impressive and may direct large amounts of money be spent on range improvements, for example, if Congress does not appropriate the money the activities called for will not take place.

The typical foremat of most laws is a brief policy statement followed by definitions, procedural instructions and items authorized by the legislation. In some cases where a Congressional investigation has preceeded the legislation, the findings of Congress are included in the first section of the law. Laws by themselves though, do not indicate the actual on-the-ground procedures that will be used in implementation. Rather, the appropriate Department (in the case of federal land management, this would be Agriculture or Interior), in conjunction with the affected agency, writes rules and regulations. This can take awhile. For example both FLPMA and NFMA passed in 1976, yet the final regulations were not published until 1979. These rules and regulations are then codified and put into manual form for use at the field level, again requiring a period of years for this to be accomplished.

Often the intent of Congress is not clear and laws are interpreted and changed with use and the test of time. An example of this is the Wilderness Act. When the Forest Service first began to work with the Wilderness Act, it interpreted tne language of the law very strictly.

Fences were judged to be structures, and thus the presence of a fence was enough to eliminate an area from wilderness consideration. More recently, though Congressional approval of various wilderness areas that do contain fences, stockmen's overnight huts, and water developments, the criteria specified in the law have been interpreted more loosely. Now a number of restricted and specific activities may occur in designated wilderness areas.

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This paper gives a brief summary of the highlights of major pieces of federal land use legislation and where possible discusses the intent of Congress. There are many, many laws that are involved with federal land management and this paper only attempts to discuss those of major impact or of interest to citizens concerned with federal land management. Each law is listed by its full title, followed by the public law number and the date of publication. A citizen activist should take care to read the whole law and find out if there have been any amendments or court decisions that might have changed the interpretation of the legislation. Major college and university libraries contain copies of the Federal Code of Regulations and the Federal Register in which the original text of all laws can be found. Usually the local BLM District Office or the Forest Supervisor's Office will have copies of major laws affecting their operations available for the public.

The laws discussed were chosen because they are the more important laws dealing with federal land management. They are arranged in chronological order, with the most recent laws first.

. lic Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (PRIA)
Public Law 95-514 - Oct. 25, 1978

The Public Rangelands Improvement Act, or PRIA, directs the Bureau of Land Management to manage public rangelands that are not set aside for other specific uses, with "the goal... to improve the range conditions... so that they become as productive as feasible in accordance with the rangeland management objectives established through the land use planning process."

This law authorizes Congress to appropriate large sums ($15,000,000 annually in the years 1980 to 1982) for "on-the-ground range rehabilitation, maintenance and construction of range improvements." Only 15 percent of the sum authorized can be used to hire or train personnel, the rest of the money must be used for actual range improvements.

The Act authorizes a grazing fee and indicates the formula to be used. It is stipulated that the annual increase or decrease cannot exceed 25 percent of the previous years fee.

The BLM is directed to work in close cooperation with the leasees, permittees and landowners in developing allotment management plans.

The Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior are directed to develop an experimental stewardship program which is to be designed to offer incentives or rewards to the permittees and leasees whose stewardship, results in the improvement of the large condition of lands under permit or lease. One suggested method of reward is to allow the permittee to use up to 50 percent of the grazing fee in the form of range improvement work on his or her allotment.

Another major portion of PRIA amends the Wild Horse and Burro Act. The Secretary of Interior is directed to maintain a current inventory of wild free-roaming horses and burros on public lands. By using this inventory, over population problems should be identified and appropriate management levels

identified. The Secretary is authorized to remove excess numbers of animals so that a thriving natural ecological balance can be restored to the range. The Act authorizes the Secretary to order old, sick or lame animals to be destroyed in the most humane manner possible, and authorizes that animals that are not adopted and still are in excess to be destroyed in the most humane and cost efficient manner possible.

The act directs the Secretary to authorize research on such animals. In addition, the law significantly changes the adopt-a-horse program by allowing any qualified individual to adopt up to 4 horses a year and allows the title of ownership to be transferred to the individual after that individual has provided humane conditions, treatment and care of the animal(s) for one year.

Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978
Public Law 95-306 - June 30, 1978

This short act passed in 1978 provides for an expanded and comprehensive Extension program for forest and range and renewable resources. Congress recognizes that the USDA and the states provide, through Extension activities, useful and productive educational programs. Congress also recognizes that there is a need for educational programs to be directed at private forest and range land owners as well as consumptive and nonconsumptive users of forest and range land resources.

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to provide educational programs that will help individuals recognize, analyze and resolve problems dealing with renewable resources. The law authorizes several different types of educational programs that may be provided by eligible colleges and universities. A broad spectrum of topics is to be covered in these educational programs including the needs of small, private non-industrial forest landowners, range and fish and wildlife management programs for professionally trained individuals, and the identification of areas needing research.

The Cooperative Extension State Directors are directed to develop, with the administrative heads of eligible colleges and universities, an annual comprehensive and coordinated renewable resources Extension program.

In addition, at the national level, the Secretary of Agriculture is directed to prepare a five year plan for implementation of the Act, by spring of 1980, which will be updated every 5 years thereafter. This plan is to cover all aspects of the Renewable Resources Extension Program, including evaluation criteria. The law authorizes $15,000,000 to be appropriated annually from 1979 to 1989.

National Forest Management Act of 1976
Public Law 94-588 - Oct. 22, 1976

This act amends the Forest and Rangelands Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (RPA). It requires additional information to be considered in reports, including information on fiber potential, wood utilization by mills, wood wastes and wood product recycling. Reforestation is established as a policy. An objective of the forest service's land management plans is to be close monitoring of forests to determine where the need for reforestation measures exists. Requirements for National Forest System Resource Planning are redesigned. Public participation is to be included in the development, review and revision of land management plans. The act discusses specific requirements for plans. The main points are:

1) Plans shall form one integrated plan for each unit of the National Forest System, incorporating in one document or one set of documents, available to the public at convenient locations, all the features required by this section.

2) Plans shall be developed by an interdisciplinary team based on inventories of the applicable resources of the forest.

3) Plans shall be embodied in appropriate written material, including maps and other descriptive documents.

4) Plans shall be ammended in any manner whatsoever after final adoption and public notice... with public involvement comparable to that earlier specified.

5) Plans shall be revised at least every 15 years.

Much more detailed information is discussed. Generally this Act redefines that Forest Service's land use planning process and indicates that the basic unit of planning is to be the forest rather than planning units. The other major requirement of this act is that the Forest Service must clearly document all planning materials and have this information available for the public for review.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)
Public Law 94-579 - Oct. 2), 1976

The purpose as stated in the law is "to establish public land policy; to provide for the management, protection, development and enhancement of the public lands; and for other purposes."

One of the most important aspects of FLPMA is the declaration of policy. The act is commonly referred to as the "BLM Organic Act". Prior to this time BLM was in a custodial role. There had been no policy statement indicating that the public domain lands would be managed as part of the federal estate on more than a temporary basis. The statement "the public lands be retained in federal ownership" is critical. Until this time there had been the possibility and the assumption existed in the minds of some that these lands

eventually could be withdrawn and disposed of into private hands. Although the Multiple Use Reclassification Act of 1964 did state that some lands would be retained in multiple use management, the possibility of a wide scale disposal plan existed. The law also establishes "that management be on the basis of multiple use and sustained yield." Other important policies that are established are that:

1) Public lands be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource and archeological values; that, where appropriate will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition; that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals; and that will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use.

2) The United States receive fair market value of the public lands and their resources unless otherwise provided for by statute.

3) Regulations and plans for the protection of public land areas of critical environmental concern be promptly developed.

4) The public lands be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands. FLPMA creates a new land use planning process that requires public involvement throughout.

Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (RPA)
Public Law 93-378 - Aug. 17, 1974.

This is a comprehensive law that establishes a long range renewable resource planning program. The Forest Service is given the responsibility to assure that the Nation uses its natural resources wisely. The Forest Service is required to make sure that our renewable natural resources are used in such a way that there will always be a supply of renewable resources from the Nation's public aid private forest and range lands. The Forest Service must assess supply and demand forecasts, analyze environmental aid economic impacts, coordinate multiple use and sustained and yield opportunities and use public participation throughout the process.

The Act requires the Forest Service to do two major things:
1) submit to Congres, every 10 years, a Renewable Resources Assessment,
2) submit to Congress a long-range Renewable Resources Program.

Renewable Resources Assessment

This assessment considers all forest and range lands in the United States, both public and private. It includes an inventory of present and potential renewable resources along with opportunities for improving yields and a cost benefit analysis. The assessment also must include a description of the Forest Service research and cooperative programs, and how they relate to the National Forest system as well as how these programs relate to public and private

activities. The assessment must also discuss important policy directives and laws that affect the management of forest and range lands.

Renewable Resources Program

The program is specific and constitutes more of a action plan than the assessment. The program includes an inventory of specific needs and opportunities for both public and private investments. The program must identify specific outputs of goods aid the antcipated results and benefits of Forest Service programs. In addition priorities are to be set for meeting the objectives of Forest Service programs. A detailed study of personnel requirements needed to accomplish existing programs is also required.

Endangered Species Act of 1973
Public Law 93-205 - Dec. 28, 1973

The Endangered Species Act finds that since various species of fish, wildlife and plants in the United States have been rendered extinct as a consequence of economic growth and development, regulation is needed. Congress will encourage the states through financial assistance to develop aid maintain conservation programs. The purpose of the law is stated as to provide a program for tie conservation of rare and endangered species and to support various international treaties and conventions named in the Act.

The Secretaries of Interior and Commerce are directed to determine if any species (plant or animal) is endangered or threatened by considering the following factors:

1) if there is current or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;
2) if it is being overutilized for commerial, sporting, scientific, or educational purpoes;
3) if there are disease or predation problems;
4) if existing regulatory mechanisms are inadequate; or
5) if natural or man made factors are affecting its continued existence.

When a species is determined to be threatened, the appropriate Secretary issues regulations that he deems necessary to ensure the conservation of that species.

Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Protection Act of 1971
Public Law 92-195 - Dec. 15, 1971

This bill creates legislation for the management of wild horses and burros. This was a grass roots inspired bill that became law due to pressure from interest groups. Section 1 states:

"Congress finds and declares that wild free-roaming horses and burros are living symbols of tne historic and pioneer spirit of the West; that they contribute to the diversity of life forms within the Nation and enrich the lives of the American people; and that these horses and burros are fast disappearing from the American scene. It is the policy of Congress that wild-free roaming horses and burros will be protected from capture, branding, harassment, or death; and to accomplish this they are to be considered in the area where presently found, as an integral part of the natural system of public lands".

Such animals are placed under the jurisdiction of tie Secretary of the Interior as administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The law has created a number of problems since it limited management techniques and specifies the options available. It has been subsequently ammended, most importantly by FLPMA and PRIA which loosened the controls and allowed for some practical ways to attempt to manage herd size.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)
Public Law 91-190 - Jan. 1, 1970

Congress, in recognizing the impact of man's activity on all components of the natural environment declares as policy "... to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans." This law establishes the need for environmental analysis and environmental impact statements. On any proposed legislation or other major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment a detailed statement by the responsible official is required. This statement is required to include an analysis of:

1) environmental impacts of the proposed action;

2) any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented;

3) alternatives to proposed action;

4) the relationship between local short-term uses of man's environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity; and

5) any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources which would be involved in the proposed action should it be implemented.

NEPA requires, that environmental considerations be integrated into the decision making process used by federal agencies. NEPA authorized the creation of the Couicil of Environmental Quality (CEQ) which in 1978 issued regulations for the implemeitation of NEPA. Prior to this NEPA was carried out by guidelines that were developed agency by agency and that lacked a consistent procedure that could easily be followed by all agencies. These "new" regulations clarify the intent of NEPA and are designed to reduce the amount

of paperwork, reduce delay, and to produce better decisions. Two of the most important items in the new regulations are the requirement that if possible EIS's should not exceed 150 pages, and provisions for a "scoping" process. Scoping is a procedure that takes place at the very beginning of the EIS process. It involves identifying important issues that must be addressed in the EIS document and it is required that the public take part in the process. Scoping also should limit the number of issues to be discussed in the EIS document to those of major importance and should ensure that the EIS is an intergral part of the agency planning process. For further information consult the Federal Register, Vol. 43, No. 230, Wednesday, Nov. 29, 1978.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968
Public Law 90-542 - Oct. 2, 1968

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act declares as policy of the United States "that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreation, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in the free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate eivironments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations."

This Act establishes a wild and scenic river system in which portions of certain rivers that have outstanding characteristics for a number of multiple uses can be protected from damming and the effects of dams and development. The law initially gave wild and scenic status to 5 rivers in the West, the Clear Water, Middle Fork, Idaho; the Feather, California; the Rogue, Oregon; and the Flathead and Missouri in Montana. The law established a study plan whereby 58 sections of rivers are to be reviewed for possible inclusion in the system.

The Wilderness Act of 1964
Public Law 88-572 - Sept. 3, 1964

The Wilderness Act creates a National Wilderness Preservation System. The Act declares as policy of the Congress "to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness." A wilderness is defined in part as "in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, ...(wilderness) is hereby recogized as an area where earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." The law establishes a timescale framework for the evaluation of all federal land areas that appear to meet the requirement. Accommodations are made for uses such as mining, logging and grazing; all can continue, but with certain restrictions.

The intent of the Act is to insure that America preserves some of its land in natural conditions. This is in contrast to most other developed nations which do not have a legacy of federal land. This law requires the Secretary of Agriculture to review national forest lands for suitability for preservation as wilderness. (This was done under the RARE II program, RARE standing for Roadless Area Review and Evaluation. The Federal Land Policy and Management

Act, or FLPMA, requires that the BLM conduct the same type of review). Congress makes the final decision however.

The Act states that nothing in the act should be interpreted as interfering with the multiple use aspect of national forest management as established in the Organic Act or the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act. It also specifies that in designated wilderness areas, management should be such that the wilderness character of the area is preserved.

The uses that are prohibited inconjunction with wilderness designation are: 1) no commercial developments, 2) no permanent or temporary roads, 3) no motor vehicles, 4) no landing of aircraft or other mechanized transport, and 5) no installation of structures.

Multiple Use Reclassification Act of 1964
Public Law 88-607 - Sept. 19, 1964.

This law orders the Secretary of Interior to determine which public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management should be: 1) disposed of to private or state ownership, or 2) retained in federal ownership and managed for multiple use. Lands that are chiefly valuable for residential, commercial, agricultural, industrial or for public use may be disposed of. Lands that are retained in federal ownership are to be managed for: 1) domestic livestock grazing, 2) fish and wildlife development and utilization, 3) industrial development, 4) mineral production, 5) occupancy, 6) outdoor recreation, 7) timber production, 8) watershed protection, 9) wilderness preservation, or 10) preservation of public values that would be lost if the land passed from federal ownership.

This law appears to be the first one that directs the Bureau of Land Management to operate under multiple use principles. It is also important because, like the Taylor Grazing Act, it does not state that the Bureau of Land Management is to manage public lands on any permanent long term basis. In fact the law states that federal lands retained, at least during this period, in federal ownership will be managed for multiple uses. This Act is consistent with and supplemental to the Taylor Grazing Act, and now with the passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, it has little but historical significance.

Multiple Use, Sustained Yield Act of 1960
Public Law 86-517 - June 12, 1960

This is a short act with only five sections directed at national forest lands. It states that: "the policy of the Congress is that the national forests are established and shall be administered for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes. Multiple use is defined as the management of all the various renewable surface resources of the national forests so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to

conform to changing needs and conditions; that some land will be used for less than all of the resources; and harmonious and coordinated, management of the various resources, each with the other, witout impairment of the productivity of the land, with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output".

The concept of sustained yield is that goods derived from federal land resources are to be removed in such a manner that the productivity of the land will not decline over time. Thus grazing and other activities can occur only at a rate determined by the carrying capacity of the land.

This law is important because it directs the Forest Service to manage the national forests for many uses, timber production being only one of a number of considerations. Sustained yield is defined as the achievements and maintenance in perpetuity of regular output of the various renewable resources without impairment of the productivity of the land.

Taylor Grazing Act of 1934
73rd Congress Session II Ch. 865 - June 28, 1934

This is the first major law dealing with the administration and regulation of grazing on the public domain land. Created in part due to agitation by livestock groups over the poor condition of the rangelands in the intermountain and great basin areas, it provides for 80 million acres to be included in grazing districts. This act takes these lands from their unprotected and unreserved status and puts them under federal regulation. Until the Taylor Grazing Act was passed, little provision was made for administering grazing on the public lands. The lack of regulation led to extensive damage to the range and a general consensus that legislation was needed in order to prevent further damage and to allow for orderly management. The Taylor Grazing Act was, for the most part, formulated by and designed to aid the livestock grower in his operation. The major purposes of the act are, as stated in the preamble: "to stop injury to the public grazing lands by preventing overgrazing and soil deterioration, to provide for their orderly use, improvement, and development, to stabilize the livestock industry dependent upon the public range, and for other purposes".

Fifty-nine districts were originally created in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming. These districts are the basis of the organizational structure used by the BLM today.

American Antiquities Act of 1906
59th Congress Session I Ch 3060, 3061

The American Antiquities Act protects historic and prehistoric ruins and monuments and objects of antiquity that are located on public lands. The minimum fine involved if one is convicted of breaking this law is $500 or imprisonment for not more than 90 days.

This Act was an early step to preserve some evidence of our cultural and historical heritage. Because the federal agencies cannot afford to be strict enforcers, this law has been applied more to large scale operations, such as the sale of Indian artifacts, rather than more minor offenses.

General Mining Law Act of 1872
May 10, 1872

The General Mining Law of 1872 governs access to federal non-fuel mineral resources. This law covers extraction of hard rock minerals such as copper, lead, uranium, gold, silver, nickel, iron, zinc and molybdenum. Anyone is free to prospect and stake a claim on most federal lands. A claim is a piece of land, 20 acres in size, which the prospector stakes by marking the boundaries, usually with wooden posts at the corners and posting a notice. The prospector then must record the claim at both the county recorder's office and the local BLM office. Basically this is all the prospector has to do to begin mining. The prospector must prove that at least $100 a year is spent on developing the claim. The federal government charges no fee in connection with the removal of minerals from public lands.

There is considerable controversy over this law which still governs much of the mining activity taking place on federal lands. Conservationists, the federal agencies as well as stock growers would all like to see this law updated or replaced by legislation reflecting the times and the major technological advances that have accrued over the last 100 years in the mining industry.

TESTIFYING AT PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings are often used by federal land management agencies as a means of obtaining public input in their decision making. Public hearings are scheduled to obtain the opinions and advice of experts, as well as the thoughts and concerns of interested citizens. These hearings provide an opportunity for advocates and opponents of a proposed action to state their positions and attempt to sway decision makers. Public hearings also provide an opportunity to get your views to the general public by way of press coverage of the hearing. Whether or not a decision is made in your favor partly depends on the assessment of your testimony. Your effectiveness at a public hearing depends upon your ability to state the problem clearly and why you support or oppose the proposed action.

Ground Rules for Testifying

Being aware of the following ground rules for testifying will improve your effectiveness at public hearings.

1) Know Your Facts. Before you testify, study, prepare and organize whatever information is pertinent to the issue.

2) Be Truthful and Direct. False or misleading testimony can be easily detected. If it is believed that you have been untruthful or overly biased, your testimony may be disregarded. Your effort will be wasted and your effectiveness as a witness at future public hearings may be jeopardized. Worse yet, the integrity and viewpoint of whatever interest group you represent may also be damaged.

3) Focus Your Testimony. Restrict your remarks to the specific action under consideration. All too often people use their time speaking about some unrelated topic. When you're called on to testify, be brief, no more than four or five minutes, but request that your full statement be included in your hearing record. Tell why you support or oppose the action under consideration. Give facts to back up your position, and don't make charges or accusations you cannot prove. Speak clearly - loudly enough to be heard, slowly enough to be understood, but quickly enough to hold attention.

4) Prepare Written Testimony. It will be helpful to you and to the decision makers to prepare written testimony. On the day of the hearing you can distribute copies to agency personnel present and other members of the audience. However, you should avoid simply reading the position paper you have prepared. This type of testimony is dull and unnecessary. Instead, you might restate the main points or conclusions aid then be prepared to answer specific questions. If you don't know the answer to a question, say so. Don't bluff. Offer to get the answer and send it in for the record.

5) Listen. Pay careful attention to other statements presented at the hearing, especially by the opposition. Make note of factual errors or new ideas or proposals, for you may be asked to comment on what other witnesses say. If so, don't attack the opposition or make personal remarks. Respect the right of others to disagree with you. Do not applaud or show disapproval of any speaker.

6) Establish Your Credentials. You can increase the importance and pursuasiveness of your remarks by making sure agency representatives realize your feelings represent those of many other citizens. Tell those present which, if any, interest groups or organizations you represent. If you have written statements of commuiity leaders, other organizations, etc. who support your position but could not attend the hearing, ask that the statements be included in the record. Establish your credentials and tell the committee why you are testifying.

7) Be Informed. It's very important for you to keep yourself fully informed of the activities and plans of the agency with which you are concerned. To obtain this information, contact the agency and ask to be placed on their mailing list for all publications, information, and notices of public hearings regarding the issues in which you are interested.

TIPS FOR WRITING LETTERS

A concise, well written letter is one of the most effective means of communication, whether you are trying to influence your legislator, a federal land manager, or expressing your views in a "letter to the editor". To write an effective letter requires thoughtful consideration of your position, and so helps you to clarify in your own mind the ideas you wish to convey to others. In addition, stating your views in written form makes it easy to document your position, which is very important when participating in the land use planning activities of federal agencies.

Before you begin writing, ask yourself some or all of the following questions:

* Why am I writing? What do I want to achieve? Am I trying to change an attitude? Do I want some action to take place?

* Who am I representing when I write? Myself? An organization of which I'm a member?

* How should I identify myself?

* What do I intend to communicate?

* How can I make clear my intent in communicating? Will the decision makers understand why I decided to communicate with them?

* How can I limit my message to one, two or three points? How can I deal with each of my points in the clearest possible language? Am I certain of my facts?

* How can I avoid emotionalism and threats?

* Have I selected the best way to convey my message? (Alternatives include telegrams, mail-grams, post cards, petitions, telephone calls, personal visits, letters, photographs, charts, and others.)

* Having selected the medium, have I employed it properly? If it is to be sent, have I used the correct address? If it is written, is it legible? Have I selected suitable enclosures (not too many)? Is each enclosure clear and to the point?

* How can I put myself in the decision makers' shoes? Have I anticipated and how can I answer any questions they may have?

* Is it reasonable to expect them to respond the ways I want them to?

* Have I considered the context in which my message will be received? Is my timing good? Is there more I can do to make my message stand out?

If it is a letter you wish to write (rather than some other medium), then there are some basic rules you should follow as you state your position. Some of these "rules" are implied in the above questions, and some are just common sense.

1. Use the proper address. If you're going to take the time to write, take the time to send your letter to the right place.

2. Be brief and concise. Concentrate on making, one, two, or three main points. Limit yourself to a page or, at the most, two.

3. Identify the issue. Early in your letter, make clear what you are writing about. If it is a legislative measure, refer to the bill by name and number, if possible.

4. Give <u>your</u> opinions. Don't quote someone else's.

5. State your reasons for feeling the way you do. If you offer good reasons, you may be providing the decision maker with more information that will help solidify his/her opinion.

6. Be constructive and be positive. If you are writing to oppose something, offer an alternative you think is better, even if that alternative is to "do nothing".

7. Be sure of your facts, but use them sparingly. Make certain your facts are absolutely correct, but do not feel obliged to cite them all. Too many facts clutter an otherwise well-written letter.

8. Use human terms. Tell how something affects you, your family, your income, your health, your community.

9. Anticipate questions. Think about what the decision maker may want to know. What might he or she ask you about the subject if you were talking face-to-face? Try to answer those questions.

Some Tips on Lobbying

The term "lobbying" comes from the practice of talking to legislators in the lobby outside their legislative chamber. But sophisticated lobbying goes far beyond merely discussing the pros and cons of a particular action. Quite simply, lobbying means influencing legislators for or against something. It is an informational and educational activity, and it is a technique used by individuals and organizations to inform legislators of their views on pending legislative actions. It helps lawmakers acquire information and gauge the degree of public support or opposition to a proposed law.

In the context of federal land use decision making, lobbying with your legislators can be an effective means of communicating your message at a high level within the land management agency. In other words, get your legislator to express the views of his constituency to the land management agency.

Information and Backgrounding

The basic tool used by lobbyists is information. This information can be grouped into three general categories:

1. Information which supports the policy position or change advocated by the lobbyist.

2. Information concerning the group or movement the lobbyist represents.

3. Information about the position of other legislators who may be sympathetic to the lobbyist's cause.

Professional lobbyists need to keep track of all bills or legislative measures of interest to the organizations they represent. Once they know about a particular bill or legislative measure, lobbyists next determine what they and their organizations should do about it. This step is called "backgrounding" and involves developing the following information:

1. What effect would the bill have if passed as written? Determining the effect of a bill by simply reading it is a risky thing to do. It is better to contact the author of the bill to find out what they were trying to accomplish with the measure. Legal analysis of the bill is often necessary.

2. How important or significant is the bill to the lobbyist's organization? What priorities should the bill be given, considering that there are usually other bills of interest to the organization, as well as limited time and resources which can be devoted to any one legislative measure? Lobbyists try to determine as realistically as possible what can be accomplished in the next few sessions of Congress, and establish their priorities according to those time and resource constraints.

3. What are the bill's chances of being passed? Sometimes bills are introduced which do not represent a serious legislative effort. Rather, they are introduced to satisfy certain interest groups within the legislator's constituency and there is no real willingness on the part of the legislator to devote his own resources to helping it pass.

   Even if the bill's sponsor is serious, the relevant legislative committee or perhaps a key committee member may be so opposed to the bill that it has no chance of making it to the floor. However, getting a bill into committee does get it on the record, which helps the bill go through a later session of Congress with relative ease.

A Note of Caution...

While lobbying is a form of free speech, Congress and some state legislatures have passed laws requiring lobbyists to register, file reports, and so forth under certain conditions. Be sure your organization meets all legal requirements if it engages in lobbying. Also, the Internal Revenue Code places certain restrictions on lobbying by some tax organizations. Check those, too, as well as any applicable state and local laws.

But Remember...

Even if your group is legally unable to lobby in its own name, there are no restrictions on what individuals can do. A variety of informational and educational activities, short of formal lobbying, can help motivate your legislators to express your concerns to the appropriate officials.

PATH OF A FEDERAL BILL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	SENATE
INTRODUCED by member(s) of the House,	INTRODUCED by member(s) of the Senate.
REFERRED to a committee by Parliamentarian	Same
NUMBERED and PRINTED by Government Printing Office, with copies sent to assigned committee and to the Document Room for public distribution.	Same
COMMITTEE action. Usually referred to a subcommittee for study and hearings. Reported to parent committee, which decides whether to accept the subcommittee's recommendations; it may hold hearings. Bill then killed or "marked-up" and reported out.	Same
PUT ON LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR by Clerk of the House.	Same
RULES COMMITTEE decides to "kill," "let die," or release to floor, ruling time allowed for debate and stating whether or not it can be amended on the floor.	MAJORITY LEADER has function of putting bills on calendar.
FULL HOUSE debates, amends, votes to debates kill or pass the bill.	FULL CHAMBER OF THE SENATE no time limit), amends, votes to kill or pass.

If a bill is passed in different forms by the House and the Senate, they must be sent to a CONFERENCE COMMITTEE to resolve the differences and s "conference report" is sent to both chambers.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	SENATE
DEBATE (usually very brief debate is held, and the bill is voted on, killed or passed).	Same

If the bill is passed by both houses, it is sent to the President.

PRESIDENTIAL ACTION -- three possibilities:

1. If he signs it, the bill becomes law.
2. If he vetoes it, Congress may override his veto by a two-thirds vote of both houses, making it law.
3. If he "pockets" it, the bill becomes law after 10 days, unless the session of Congress ends during that time, at which point the bill dies.

USEFUL RESOURCE MATERIAL

The Congressional Record:

The Congressional Record is published every day Congress is in session, and averages about 250 pages per issue. It costs $225 per year, and is a useful source of information about what is going on in Washington since it covers the proceedings and debates on the floors in both chambers. The Record is divided into four sections: Senate Proceedings, House Proceedings, Extensions of Remarks (extra speaches and materials members of Congress want to insert for publication, but not necessarily read on the floor), and a Daily Digest of floor and committee saction. Seperate index volumes are issued periodically, but are not a part of a yearly subscription.

If you want to subscribe, send a check or money order, payable to the "Superintendent of Documents," to the Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Copies of Bills:

Copies of bills can be ordered from the Senate Document Room (zip code: 20510) or the House Document Room (zip code: 20515). You can order up to three bills at one time. Listg them in numerical order, and enclose a self addressed mailing label or envelope. Bills are also available upon request through your own Congressional representative or Senator by contacting their District or Washington, D.C. offices.

You can also find out about the current status of any bill by calling the Legislative Information and Bill Status Office, (202) 225-1772. To obtain this information, you'll need to know the number and subject of the bill.

Congressional Directory:

A useful book containing information not only about Congress but also about all branches of the Federal government. It is issued in May, during the first session of each Congress. It is available form the Government Printing Office for $25.00 (regular cloth) or $20.00 (paperback).

Congressional Staff Directory:

Similar to the Congressional Directory, but contains more detailed information about Congress, including subcommittee and staff assignments. It is available about April for each House of Congress from a private publisher: Congressional Staff Directory, P.O. Box 62, Mount Vernon, Virginia, 22121, (703) 765-3400, for $50.00.

Congressional District Atlas:

Contains maps showing the boundaries of the Congressional Districts. It can be ordered from the Government Printing Office for $33.00.

Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report and Other Publications:

The Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report is an expensive ($98.00 per year) publication that contains information on all the important activities of Congress, including detailed discussions of major legislation and voting records. It is available from Congressional Quarterly, 1414 22nd. Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037, (202) 887-8621.

The Congressional Quarterly issues many other useful publications, including its annual Washington Information Directory ($55.95, cloth, available at the end of May, a yearly catalog of groups and information sources organized by issue), Congressional Procedures and the Policy Process ($15.95), Inside Congress ($8.25), The Washington Lobby ($13.95), and Interest Groups, Lobbying and Policy Making ($9.95).

The Washington Post:

Contains useful analyses of issues, and it daily lists all activities in Congress, including the time, location, and subject of committee hearings and scheduled floor action. Mail subscriptions at $445.00 per year are available from: 1150 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 2007), (202) 334-6100.

Environmental Study Conference Weekly Bulletin:

A useful bulletin produced by the Congress itself, this newsletter is issued for members of Congress and the public when Congress is session. It is available by first class mail for $295.00 per year, from the Environment Study Institute, 1222 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20515, (202) 628-1400.

Washington Lobbyists/Lawyers Directory:

An index and cross index of over 5,000 Washington based professionals representing a variety of public and private interests. Write to: Washington Lobbyists/Lawyers Directory, P. O. Box 137, Benjamin Franklin Station, Washington, D.C. 20044 ($25.00 per copy).

How Our Laws are Made:

A useful background pamphlet, available for $2.50 from the Government Printing Office.

The National Wildlife Federation's Conservation Directory:

A list of organizations, agencies, and officials concerned with natural resource use and management. Available for $15.00 from The National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 797-6800.

Who Knows: Guide to Washington Experts:

A 600 page directory, listing contact information for some 20,000 information sources in the Federal Government in Washington, D.C., cross indexed by topic. Issued annually for $125.00 from: WASHINGTON RESEARCHERS, 2612 P Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20007, (202) 333-3533.

United States Government Manual:

An essential reference to the structure and function of the various federal agencies. It is issued every two years and is available from the Government Printing Office for $20.00.

Federal Register:

Contains announcements of all proposed rules and regulations, important local administrative hearings, notices of pending lease sales, and the filing of environmental impact statements. Issued five days a week, it is available through the Government Printing Office for $340.00 per year.

A Necessary Address:

Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20402. Inquiries: (202) 783-3238.

You're Invited to Make a Difference

As a Volunteer
For America's Public Lands

* Do you enjoy working outdoors in natural settings, or in wildland environments?

* Are you willing to share your knowledge and skills with others?

* Would you like to learn a new skill or brush up on an old one?

* Are you interested in natural resource issues?

* Do you like to meet new people and get to know different regions of the country?

* Would you like to help conserve our heritage of natural and historic resources for future generations?

Each year some 15,000 Americans are making a difference in the future of

their country's Public Lands by serving as Volunteers with the Bureau of Land Management. Most of the lands managed by the BLM are in the western States of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming.

Volunteer Opportunities with BLM are as varied as any particular land area's resources. Some examples:

Wildlife: Install rainwater "guzzler" catchments for deer, desert bighorn sheep, quail, and other wildlife. Improve stream habitat to increase salmon and trout. Plant vegetation and erect fencing along shorelines to protect riparian (stream and lake edge) zones, and to prevent erosion and pollution. Conduct bird counts and other wildlife surveys. Design and install waterfowl nesting boxes or platforms.

Recreation: Serve as river rangers and assist canoeists and rafters on wild and scenic rivers. Serve as campground hosts. Lead hikes and tours. Plan, build, and maintain recreational trails.

Range Management and Forestry: Plant trees and shrubs in burned-over areas. Assist on watershed, range improvement, timber sales and soil and water conservation projects. Thin seedlings and sapling stands. Conduct fire prevention projects, and support fire-supression work (other than on firelines).

Work in the field as a member of a cadastral survey crew.

Data Management: Assist in operating BLM's Land Information System, a new computerized geographic-based system for storing and making available information about an area's natural and historic/cultural resources and other data needed for management decision making.

Some "Volunteers for the Public Lands" work alongside fellow members of service clubs or other citizen groups, and some serve on an indiviual basis. Some work on short-term projects, or only on weekends during a particular season. Others serve on a longer-term basis -- by looking after a stretch of a favorite stream, perhaps, or by maintaining particular trails or campsites they've "adopted" on a continuing basis. Most Volunteers serve part-time, such as, only weekends, or only during a certain season.

Because needs for volunteer assistance varies from area to area, all our Volunteers are selected and assigned locally -- at one of BLM's 200 offices. A local-area BLM Volunteer Program Coordinator can help you match your particular project preferences, skills, and available time with the needs of particular BLM areas and projects.

Energy and Minerals: Update mineral survey maps. Take part in geological surveys and paleontological (fossil) excavations. Operate maps and microfiche data-base systems.

Archeology and History: Do field investigations. Locate, map, and record the designs of ancient petroglyphs. Restore and protect historic areas and prehistoric archeological sites and artifacts. Conduct research projects.

Administrative Support: Operate word processing programs, computers, and other office equipment. Conduct training workshops, and orientation sessions for visitors.

Public Information: Go into the field on writing, editing, and photograph assignments. Answer questions at visitor centers. Produce graphics, video films, and publications.

Wilderness: Assist in inventorying and protecting areas being considered for designation as Wilderness Areas. Conduct botanical surveys of plants, including rare and endangered species, and join wilderness monitoring patrols. Teach low-impact camping techniques.

Wild Horses and Burros: Assist with the adoption and feeding of these animals pending adoption. Answer public inquires.

Engineering and Surveying: Assist in constructing and maintaining of built facilities, signs, roads, and trailheads. Aid engineers in drafting plans.

BLM Volunteers have the same coverage as Government employees for two purposes:

* If you are injured while acting within the scope of your volunteer agreement, you would be eligible for compensation for work related injuries, and
* If you are sued for damage to property or injury in relation to your activities within the scope of your volunteer agreement, the Federal government will assume liability and defend you.

Volunteers contribute their services without pay. They may, however, deduct their out-of-pocket expenses — such as for car mileage, meals, and lodging necesary for their volunteer work -- on their income-tax returns within limits set by the IRS and State government. In some cases Volunteers can be reimbursed by a local BLM unit for some such expences. And, occasionally, a local BLM area can provide housing for its Volunteers, often limited to trailer, bunkhouse, or tent.

Volunteers are selected without regard to gender, race, age, handicap or any other circumstance except ability to get the job done. Volunteers under 18 are welcomed with consent of parent or gaurdian

If you're a member of an organized group -- such as a community service club, a sportsmen's organization, or a youth or school group — BLM respresentatives will be glad to work with your group to identify or design a

volunteer project that your members can do together.

Lands administered by the BLM range from deserts to Douglas-fir forests, and from rolling rangelands to the tundra. They contain several hundred special-management areas to protect birds of prey, elk, desert tortoise, and many other forms of wildlife, higher valued recreational resources, such as, wilderness areas and wild and scenic rivers. They encompass many of the storied overland trails and landmarks that guided those who explored and settled the American West. And, these lands provide some of Earth's most magnificent landscapes.

There's also a wide range of opportunity on these lands — for use, for appreciation, for learning, and for sharing and giving something back to the land.

To learn more about how you can lend a hand in taking care of it -- for serving both the land and the visitors it attracts — write or phone the Volunteer Program Coordinator at a BLM office near a locality that interest you.

Request a volunteer application, fill it in, and return it to the Coordinator. Be as specific as you can in describing your interest, skills,

and talents. Each BLM area has its own needs, and seeks Volunteer assistance to accomplish particular tasks. Include a letter if you feel the application doesn't cover the points you want to make, or if you have any questions.

The Coordinator will review you application and respond, usually by mail. If your interests and skills don't appear to match what that area needs, the Coordinator will seek to refer you to another area.

If your interests and skills do match what that area needs, the Volunteer Coordinator or another BLM representative will ask you to help prepare your volunteer services agreement. The agreement — usually one page long -- explains your project duties and specifies the term and timing of volunteer service you elect, as well as, the agency's responsibilities to you. Then — after orientation and, as needed, training for your particular assignment -- you'll be ready to begin.

Check it out! You may find some of the most rewarding experiences you'll ever have.

Where BLM Offices Are Located

Additional information and a Volunteer application may be requested from the Volunteer Program Coordinator at a BLM office near where you may be interested in serving. Addresses and phone numbers for BLM's State Offices, together with communities in which other BLM offices are located, are listed below.

Alaska State Office: 222 W. 7th Ave. (#13), Anchorage, AK 99513-7599. Phone (907) 271-5555. Other BLM offices are in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Ft. Wainwright, Glennallen, Kotzebue, Nome, Tok.

Arizona State Office: 3707 N. 7th St. (P.O.Box 16563), Phoenix, AZ 85011. Phone (6022) 241-5504. Other BLM offices are in Kingman, Lake Havasu City, Phoenix, Huachuca City, Safford, Yuma, St George (UT).

California State Office: 2800 Cottage Way (P-2841), Sacramento, CA 95825-1889. Phone (916) 978-4746. Other BLM offices are in Alturas, Arcata, Bakersfield, Barstow, Bishop, Cedarville, El Centro, Folsom, Hollister, Needles, Palm Springs, Redding, Ridgecrest, Riverside, Susanville, Ukiah.

Colorado State Office: 2850 Youngfield St., Lakewood, CO 80215. Phone (303) 236-1700. Other BLM offices are in Alamosa, Canon City, Craig, Denver, Dolores, Durango, Glenwood Springs, Grand Junction, Meeker, Gunnison, Kremmling, Montrose.

Eastern States Office: 350 S. Pickett St., Alexandria, VA 22304. Phone (703) 461-1369. Other BLM offices are in Jackson (MS), Rolla (MO), Milwaukee (WI).

Idaho State Office: 3380 Americana Terrace, Boise, ID 83706. Phone (208) 334-1771. Other BLM offices are in Boise, Burley, Coeur d'Alene, Cottonwood, Idaho Falls, Malad, Pocatello, Salmon, Shoshone.

Montana State Office: 222 N. 32nd St. (P.O. Box 36800), Billings, MT 59107. Phone (406) 255-2913. Other BLM offices are in Billings, Butte, Dillon, Ekalaka, Lewistown, Glasgow, Great Falls, Harve, Malta, Miles City, Missoula, Belle Fourche (SD), Dickinson (ND).

Nevada State Office: 850 Harvard Way (P.O. Box 12000), Reno, NV 89520. Phone (702) 328-6386. Other BLM offices are in Battle Mountain, Carson City, Caliente, Elko, Ely, Las Vegas, Sparks, Tonopah, Winnemucca.

New Mexico State Office: Joseph M. Montoya Federal Building, S. Federal Place (P.O. Box 1449), Santa Fe, NM 87504-1449. Phone (505) 988-6316. Other BLM offices are in Albuquerque, Carlsbed, Farmington, Hobbs, Las Cruces, Roswell, Socorro, Taos, Oklahoma City (OK), Tulsa (OK).

Oregon State Office: 825 N.E. Multnomah St. (P.O. Box 2965), Portland, OR 97208. Phone (503) 231-6277. Other BLM Offices are in Baker, Coos Bay, Eugene, Klamath Falls, Lakeview, Medford, Hines, Prineville, Roseburg, Salem, Tillamook, Vale, Spokane (WA), Wenatchee (WA).

Utah State Office: 324 S. State St., Salt Lake City, UT 84111-2303. Phone (801) 539-4019. Other BLM offices are in Cedar City, Escalante, Fillmore Grouse Creek, Hanksville, Kanab, Moab, Monticello, Price, Richfield, St. George, Salt Lake City, Vernal.

Wyoming State Office: 2515 Warren Ave. (P.O. Box 1828), Cheyenne, WY 82003. Phone (307) 772-2111. Other BLM offices are in Buffalo, Casper, Cody, Kemmerer, Lander, Mills, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, Rock Springs, Worland.

BLM's Service Center is located at the Denver Federal Center, Building 50, Denver, CO 80225; phone (303) 236 -6452. The Boise Interagency Fire Center is at 3905 Vista Ave., Boise, ID 83705; phone (208) 389-2457. BLM's Headquarters Office is at the Department of the Interior Building, 18th and C Sts. NW., Washington, D.C. 20240; phone (202)343-9435.